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SUBJECT: INCLUSION OF BURKINA FASO IN TSCTP: ALGERIA

REF: STATE 115500

Visiting NEA/MAG Director Stephanie Williams delivered reftel points during a November 3 meeting with MFA African Affairs Director General Lounes Magramane. Magramane said that Algeria shares the same basic approach to counterterrorism as the U.S., but explained that Algeria would need time to consider the U.S proposal to include Burkina Faso in TSCTP. He promised to refer our question to his colleagues at MFA and provide us any subsequent feedback. In general, Magramane praised U.S.- Algerian cooperation on CT efforts in the region and pointed to a 2002 Africa Union (AU) plan of action on CT that provides a legal framework for cooperation in the Sahel. Magramane also said that Algeria has frequent diplomatic contact on the issue with relevant AU governments and that Algeria was interested in elaborating an international convention to further define CT cooperation in the Sahel.
DAUGHTON